A Report on Ph. D Scholars Departmental Orientation Programme on "Building a Strong Foundation for Quality, Ethical and Impactful Research" Organized by Department of Computer Applications on 19.09.2026





Report Submitted by: Dr. P. T. Anitha, Associate Professor, Department of MCA
Venue and Time: KKB110, 19th September 2026, 9.30 am to 5:00 PM
Participants: Ph.D. Research Supervisors, Ph.D. Research Scholars and Faculty Members
Mode of Conduct: Offline
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Purpose

The programme was organised to orient newly admitted Ph.D. research scholars towards the principles of quality, ethical and impactful research, and to equip them with the conceptual clarity and practical skills required to begin their doctoral journey on a sound footing.

Objectives of the Programme

The objectives of the orientation programme were:

- To welcome the newly admitted Ph.D. research scholars and introduce them to the academic and research culture of the Department.
- To create awareness of the principles of quality, ethical and impactful research.
- To guide scholars in identifying a research area, formulating a research problem and recognising research gaps.
- To train scholars in conducting systematic literature surveys and in selecting and critically reading research papers, using modern AI-assisted research tools.
- To familiarise scholars with the Ph.D. Regulations and the role of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) in guiding and reviewing their progress.
- To help scholars identify suitable journals and understand indexing, Scopus, Springer and journal metrics such as the Impact Factor, along with the value of conference publications.
- To provide an opportunity for scholars to interact with their guides and plan the course of their research.

Introduction

The orientation programme commenced with a welcome address by **Dr. N. Naveen Kumar, Head, Department of Computer Applications**. On behalf of the faculty, he welcomed the newly admitted research scholars and encouraged them to participate actively in the academic and research activities of the Department.

The programme comprised a series of enriching technical sessions delivered by experienced faculty members and research experts. The sessions covered the selection of a research area, identification of research problems and research gaps, conduct of literature surveys, selection and critical reading of research papers, the Ph.D. regulations and the role of the Research

Advisory Committee (RAC), identification of suitable journals, journal metrics such as the Impact Factor, and the importance of conference publications.
Through these sessions, the scholars gained practical knowledge and structured guidance to plan and carry out their research in a systematic, ethical and goal-oriented manner.

Session Highlights

Dr. B. Nagarajan, Associate Professor, delivered an insightful session on cultivating a research-oriented mindset. He clarified the key concepts of research area, research topic, research problem, research question, research contribution and research gap, and demonstrated how a broad research area can be progressively narrowed into a focused, researchable problem. He encouraged scholars to develop a scholarly outlook built on critical thinking, questioning and continuous exploration, and stressed the importance of "hunting the research gap" as the starting point of meaningful research.





Dr. R. S. Somasundaram, Professor, offered practical guidance on identifying research problems and selecting relevant research papers. He recommended a staged approach to reading: first examine the title and abstract, compare the paper with one's own research problem, and then study the conclusion to understand its findings, limitations and future scope. Only when the paper proves relevant should the scholar proceed to read it in full, with close attention.

Dr. P. T. Anitha, Associate Professor, presented an overview of the Ph.D. Regulations and explained the structure and significance of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). She highlighted that the RAC serves as a guiding and monitoring body for every scholar: it advises on the direction of the research, reviews progress at periodic intervals, and offers constructive suggestions to improve the quality of the work. She urged the scholars to understand their responsibilities under the regulations, to prepare for RAC reviews with clearly documented progress, and to treat the committee's feedback as a valuable resource for timely and quality completion of their research.

Dr. J. Srinivasan, Assistant Professor, spoke on literature survey, literature gap, research gap, the different types of research gaps and the tools that support research. He emphasised the need to review existing literature critically in order to locate areas requiring further investigation, and introduced contemporary AI-assisted research tools and databases such as Elicit, Consensus, Scite, Semantic Scholar, ResearchRabbit, SciSpace and NotebookLM, explaining how each can support literature discovery and analysis.





Dr. K. Pratap Chandran, Assistant Professor, addressed the scholars on research journals, their relevance to different research areas, and the approach to identifying a suitable journal for publication. He advised scholars to evaluate a journal's scope, publisher, indexing, website and publication requirements before submitting their work.

Dr. Jude Moses Anto Devakanth, Assistant Professor, demonstrated how to locate suitable journals through Springer and Scopus, and explained the Impact Factor as a journal-level metric. He also underlined the value of conference papers in the research publication process and the importance of understanding Scopus for research scholars.

The afternoon session (2.00 – 5.00 PM) was devoted to one-to-one interaction between the research scholars and their respective guides, enabling the scholars to discuss their research areas, clarify doubts and chart the way forward.

Key Takeaways

- Moving from a broad research area to a focused research problem and research gap.
- A systematic approach to selecting and reading research papers.
- Critical literature review supported by modern AI-assisted research tools.
- Understanding the Ph.D. regulations and the guiding and monitoring role of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC).
- Choosing suitable journals using scope, indexing, Springer, Scopus and Impact Factor.

Conclusion

The orientation programme was highly informative and beneficial for the Ph.D. scholars. It provided a clear understanding of research problem identification, literature survey, research gaps, paper selection, RAC, journal selection, Impact Factor, Springer journals and conference publications. The sessions encouraged scholars to approach their doctoral research with critical thinking, systematic planning, continuous literature exploration and academic responsibility.

Acknowledgement

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